ADAP
TRANSITION GUIDE

What Existing AISH Recipients
Need to Know

Disclaimer: This document is based on publicly available information and is subject to change at any time. You should not rely on this for legal advice. It provides general information only. Revised: Aug 2026
Consult https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-disability-assistance-program for the most up-to-date information.

ADAP Launch Timeline

Overview

- All existing AISH clients assured placement in either AISH or ADAP
- Transition benefit maintains AISH rate until Dec. 31, 2027

Jul 1, 2026

ADAP Launch

- All AISH clients in either AISH or ADAP
- Transition benefit begins
- Combined application opens

Jul 1, 2026 - Dec 31, 2027

Transition Period

- 18-month transition window
- Clients can request AISH reassessment
- Enhanced employment services available

Jan 1, 2028

End of Transition

- Transition benefit ends
- Clients placed in appropriate program
- New medical reports required for AISH

ADAP Launch Timeline

Key Dates and What It Means for You

Jul 1, 2026

ADAP Launch

- All existing AISH clients will be placed either in ADAP or AISH
- A monthly transition benefit begins
- Total financial benefit remains at the AISH rate
- A new combined application opens for AISH and ADAP
- Right to remain in ADAP or request an AISH assessment

Jul 1, 2026 - Dec 31, 2027

Transition Period

- Continue receiving a transition benefit that maintains the AISH rate
- Right to request an AISH reassessment at any time
- Client with the most severe and profound disabilities will receive a prioritized review
- Retain one free government-covered medical assessment
- ADAP clients can access enhanced employment services

Jan 1, 2028

End of Transition

- Transition benefit ends
- Clients placed in AISH or ADAP
- New medical report required for AISH reassessment

Transition Benefits

What You Receive During the Transition Period

Transition Approach

On July 1, 2026, all AISH clients will be assured of a place in either AISH or ADAP. However, all existing AISH clients can request an AISH assessment.

Financial Protection During Transition

AISH clients who transition to ADAP will receive a monthly transition benefit that maintains their financial benefit at the AISH rate until December 31, 2027. This means no reduction in monthly income during the 18-month transition period.

Government-Covered Medical Reassessment

Clients who move from AISH or ADAP and later want to return to AISH get one free medical assessment with no time limit.

Automatic AISH Retention

Who will remain on AISH

Who Qualifies for Automatic Retention

Current AISH clients who meet the following criteria will automatically remain on AISH:

- Individuals with a severe and profound developmental disability, or those who are deemed eligible for or are receiving Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) services.
- Individuals with palliative or terminal medical conditions
- Individuals living in continuing care homes
- Individuals who are 60 or older

Next Steps

If you meet any of the criteria above, you do not need to do anything. AISH will contact you before July 2026, unless you choose to transition to ADAP.

If you do not, your current income continues through 2027. If you apply to return to AISH, it helps to have strong medical evidence to support your application. For additional information to support your application process, visit https://clg.ab.ca/index.php/social-benefits-advocacy-program/

Changes to Benefits

What's New Starting July and August 2026

Increased Spousal Pension Income Exemption

Starting July 2026, the first $1,200 of your spouse or cohabiting partner's pension income will be fully exempt. An additional 25% of any remaining pension income is also exempt.

Two-Client Couple Allowance

Starting August 2026, if both you and your partner receive disability income assistance (AISH or ADAP), each of you will receive 88% of the maximum individual benefit. This reflects shared household expenses and aligns with how other provinces structure disability benefits.

Recalibrated Child Benefit Rates

Starting August 2026, monthly child benefit amounts are:

- 1st child: $300
- 2nd child: $117
- 3rd child: $88
- 4th child: $59
- Each additional child: $30

Key Difference

Between AISH and ADAP

Category	AISH	ADAP
Eligibility	Permanent and severe disability that results in being permanently unable to work	Severe disability with assessed ability to work
Maximum Monthly Benefit	$1,940	$1,740
Employment Income and Self-employment Exemption	**Client**: First $350/month fully exempt, remaining deducted at 100%. **Spouse/Cohabiting Partner**: Partially exempt. First $1,500/month fully exempt, remaining amounts gradually deducted at increasing levels until full deduction at approximately $74,000 annual income.	**Client (Single, no dependents)**: First $700/month fully exempt, remaining gradually deducted until full deduction up to $45,240 annual income. **Client (With dependents)**: First $1,100/month exempt, full deduction at ~$50,000 annual income. **Spouse/Cohabiting Partner**: Partially exempt. First $1,500/month fully exempt, remaining amounts gradually deducted at increasing levels until full deduction at approximately $70,000 annual income.

Key Difference

Between AISH and ADAP

Category	AISH	ADAP
Health Benefits	Prescription drugs, ambulance, dental, optometry	Same as AISH. Benefits continue until age 65 even if employment income makes client ineligible for monthly financial benefit.
Employment Services	Limited (program designed for those unable to work)	Enhanced employment services including assessments, case management, career planning, resume assistance, job placements, and retention support

DIsability Income Assistance Benefit Estimator

This tool provides an estimate based on household composition and employment income earned by you and/or your partner (if applicable) only. **IMPORTANT:** It does not account for other sources of income, such as pensions, Canada Disability Benefit, employment insurance and others.

https://www.alberta.ca/aish-and-adap-benefit-estimator.

Before You Decide

Key Considerations

Important Notes

- ADAP clients are required to participate in employment services. If you do not find employment after participating, your financial and health benefits will continue.
- ADAP clients can apply for transfer to AISH if their medical condition progresses and they are unable to work
- Medical Review Panel decisions on AISH eligibility are final and cannot be appealed within the DIA system. However, if your medical condition changes, you may request a reassessment at any time.
- Both AISH and ADAP rates will be adjusted annually on January 1 to help keep pace with inflation
- Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) for clients who receive Modified AISH or ADAP living allowance is now exempt income.

Source

- Transforming Disability Income Assistance in Alberta Discussion Guide (August 2025) (https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/alss-transforming-disability-income-assistance-discussion-guide.pdf) (Accessed Feb 2026)
- Government of Alberta - Alberta Disability Assistance Program (https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-disability-assistance-program) (Accessed May 2026)
- Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped General Regulation, Alta Reg 96/2026.

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